

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /075 W

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R 220950Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6515

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1068

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, TW

SUBJECT: NON-KMT POLITICIANS' MOOD AND PLANS

1. EMBASSY OFFICER RECENTLY ATTENDED NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON HOSTED BY LIBERAL MID-LEVEL KMT OFFICIAL WHICH INCLUDED PROMINENT OPPOSITION POLITICIANS (LEGISLATOR K'ANG NING-HSIANG, TAOYUAN MAGISTRATE HSU HSIN-LIANG AND NANTOU PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLYMAN CHANG CH'UN-HUNG). LUNCHEON CONVERSATION PROVIDED INTERESTING INDICATIONS OF CURRENT MOOD AND PLANS OF NON-KMT POLITICIANS.

MOVING SLOWLY TO FORM OPPOSITION PARTY

2. K'ANG NING-SHIANG SUGGESTED THAT THE TERM "NON-PARTISAN" (WU TANG WU P'AI) WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE OR USEFUL DESIGNATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY OUTSIDE OF THE KMT. HE SUGGESTED THAT INDEPENDENT POLITICIANS BEGIN TO USE THE TERM "POLITICAL REFORM MOVEMENT" (CHENG CHIH KAI KE YUN TUNG) WHEN REFERRING

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TO THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITY. K'ANG SAID THAT "EVERYBODY" WOULD READ THIS AS A PRELUDE TO THE CREATION OF A FORMAL OPPOSITION PARTY, BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE A SLOW PROCESS AND THAT, IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AT LEAST, INDEPENDENT POLITICIANS MUST BE "GOOD" (KUI). THE TERM "POLITICAL REFORM MOVEMENT" SEEMED TO APPEAL TO EVERYONE PRESENT (AT LEAST IT WAS USED FREQUENTLY IN CONVERSATION) AND CHANG CHUN-HUNG

UNDERTOOK TO WRITE AN EDITORIAL IN THE MONTHLY "NEW GENERATION" TO INTRODUCE THE TERM.

MAINLANDERS AND TAIWANESE

3. K'ANG ARGUED (TO NO OPPOSITION) THAT THE MAINLANDER/TAIWANESE DISTINCTION WAS POLITICALLY INSIGNIFICANT AMONG PEOPLE BELOW 45 YEARS OF AGE. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN RECRUITING MAINLANDERS INTO INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND STRONGLY URGED FELLOW LUNCHEON GUEST YANG KUO-SHU (WELL-KNOWN TAIPEI PROFESSOR AND NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST AND A MAINLANDER) TO RUN FOR A SEAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN THIS DECEMBER. K'ANG OFFERED TO BE HIS CAMPAIGN MANAGER.

MOOD

4. THE MOOD OF THE LUNCHEON WAS OPTIMISTIC AND ENTHUSIASTIC. THE GUESTS (MOST OF WHOM HAD AN EARLIER ASSOCIATION TOGETHER ON "THE INTELLECTUAL" MAGAZINE AND WHO CALL ONE ANOTHER BY THEIR FIRST NAMES) WERE CLEARLY INTRIGUED BY THE NEW POLITICAL POSSIBILITIES THEY SAW OPENING IN TAIWAN. THEIR WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS (WHICH TOUCHED ON GENERAL POLITICAL STRATEGY AND PERSONAL POLITICAL EXPERIENCES) APPEARED TO BE FRANK AND NON-CONSPIRATORIAL. K'ANG NOTED TO THE GROUP THAT THIS KIND OF OPEN CONVERSATION WAS A RELATIVELY NEW THING IN TAIWAN AND CERTAINLY COULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED BEFORE 1971 (HE DID NOT  
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EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT DATE).

5. COMMENT: CONVERSATION CONTAINED NO REFERENCE TO AMERICAN CHINA POLICY AND NONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS BETRAYED ANY SIGN OF ANXIETY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF TAIWAN. THEY APPEAR TO THINK THEY ARE THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE.  
UNGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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